

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawing include changes to FIG. 2. In FIG. 2, the following changes have been made:

The box labeled “Print Data Generation Unit 174” has been deleted;

the reference character #174 is assigned to the box labeled “Print Data Transmission Unit”; and

the assign reference character #1741 is assigned to the box labeled “Color Conversion Information Attaching Unit”.

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Office Action dated August 22, 2005, claims 1, 5, 6 and 7 are amended and claims 4 and 8 are canceled. Claims 1-3 and 5-7 are now active in this application. No new matter has been added.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 7 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter.

The rejection is moot as to cancelled claim 8.

However, claim 7, as amended, is directed to “A recording medium having recorded thereon a program that can be installed in a computer,...” the Examiner’s rejection under 35 USC §101 asserting that the invention recited in this claim is directed to a computer program is incorrect. Consequently, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. §101, as being directed to non-statutory subject matter is respectfully solicited.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102 AND § 103

I. Claims 1, 2 and 5-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Mestha et al. (USPN 6,744,531).

Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mestha et al. in view of Zingher (USPN 5,897,260).

II. To expedite prosecution, independent claims 1, 5, 6 and 7 are amended to include features recited in claim 4, now cancelled.

According to the invention recited in amended independent claims 1, 5, 6 and 7, a server comprises a color conversion information generation element. The color conversion information generation element generates a plurality of pieces of color conversion information each corresponding to one of a plurality of printing units in a standardized manner. In other words, each piece of color space information is converted to color conversion information on the basis of a standard established in the server.

The server attaches each of a plurality of pieces of color conversion information thus generated to print data and transmits it to a corresponding one of the plurality of printing units. Each of the plurality of printing units, on the receiving side, prints print data on the basis of attached color conversion information. The plurality of printing units can thereby generate printed materials, respectively, in substantially the same color representation.

In contrast, assuming that the system of Mestha et al. were applied to a system as disclosed by Zingher, color conversion information, as mentioned in the present application, would be generated in each printing unit since color control is carried out by each of the printing units. In such case, it cannot be ensured, in a strict sense, whether the printing units have controlled the printed materials to be in the same color representation.

Conceptually stating this from another angle, the invention of the present application allows the server to automatically perform lateral comparison between the plurality of printing units, whereas the system of Mestha et al. causes each of the printing units to execute control while expecting that other printing units will execute control in the same way.

It is, therefore, apparent that the invention recited in amended independent claims 1, 5, 6 and 7 is superior to the cited prior art references in terms of the identity of printed materials printed by a plurality of printing units.

The Examiner asserts that Mestha et al. teaches a color space information acquisition element, as recited also in amended independent claims 1, 5, 6 and 7. However, Mestha et al. fails to disclose any element corresponding to “inherent information KJ”. Therefore, Mestha et al. fails to disclose a color space information acquisition element for acquiring color space information and inherent information in association with each other as recited in amended independent claims 1, 5, 6 and 7.

Neither Mestha et al. nor Zingher disclose or suggest an attaching element for attaching color conversion information to print data.

The system, according to the invention recited in amended independent claims 1, 5, 6 and 7, comprises an attaching element, and therefore can cause each of the printing units to perform relatively burdensome RIP processing and the like. Consequently, the server according to the invention of the present application does not need to perform RIP processing and the like for the plurality of printing units, allowing reduction in processing burdens.

Thus, amended independent claims 1, 5, 6 and 7 are patentable over Mestha et al. and Zingher, considered alone or in combination. Consequently, the allowance of amended independent claims 1, 5, 6 and 7, as well as dependent claims 2 and 3, is respectfully solicited.

CONCLUSION

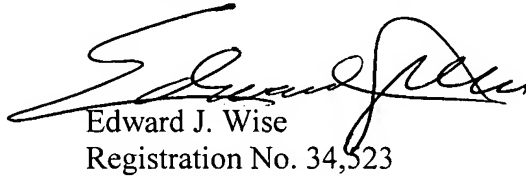
Accordingly, it is urged that the application, as now amended, is in condition for allowance, an indication of which is respectfully solicited. If there are any outstanding issues that might be resolved by an interview or an Examiner's amendment, Examiner is requested to call Applicants' attorney at the telephone number shown below.

Application No.: 10/066,682

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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